

Same-sex 'marriage' no longer make believe

By Richard Land

Nashville (BP)—Courtesy of a wrong-headed decision by Massachusetts' highest court to permit homosexuals to "marry," the United States has been pushed to the verge of a constitutional and cultural crisis.

Same-sex "married" partners will be rushing back to their home states with a newly minted Bay State marriage license in hand. Under the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit clause, other states in all likelihood soon will be forced by federal courts to recognize these Massachusetts marriages.

What was only recently relegated to the land of make-believe on television screens now is real world. By the edict of a state court, God's law has been set aside. Under years of extreme pressure from radical revisionists, God's designs for family and marriage have been torn asunder.

While God intended marriage to be a covenant between a man, a woman and Himself, the state of Massachusetts has shoved God out of the way and inserted itself in His place. This is a dangerous road we have chosen. Forget about the separation of church and state; we've allowed the state to co-opt the divine institution of marriage.

The push to legalize homosexual "marriage" lends credence to the myth that the focus of marriage is to be on the individuals' sexual welfare and the fulfillment of personal desires. Marriage, as God intends it,

is to be a union of one man and one woman where each is dedicated to the emotional, spiritual and physical welfare of the other and to the children produced by their union.

Rebellion is at the heart of human nature. Reflect on the travails

of the Israelite people in the Old Testament. Consider that their digressions were most often driven by their desire for personal pleasure and fulfillment. Consider your foibles. Where are we all most tempted? To satisfy our own desires.

No matter the relationship, the tendency is to ask, "What's in it for me?" Far too often, Christians have done a poor job with their own marriages. Divorce is as common within the body of Christ as outside of it.

The decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to codify same-sex "marriage" is just another in an ever-growing list of ethical lapses in our world. Babies can be murdered before birth in any state in the union. A physician can help you take your life in Oregon. In 37 states, the government runs radio and television ads in a wildly successful attempt to use lotteries to separate taxpayers, many of them poor, from their desperately needed cash.

And that's just the legal stuff. It's enough to make your head spin.

Sunday morning, the worship service was grand. The choir's special music was stirring; the pastor hit it out of the park. Now, 24 hours later, what difference did it make? Or for that matter, what difference

did the service on the Sunday before make?

Are we really a changed people? Are we totally transformed? Or is our mind only partially renewed? As Christians, how can we be so quiet when God's plans for people and our nation are being trashed in the public square?

We chatter on about the weather, knowing full well we can't do anything about it, except carry an umbrella. But what aren't we talking about? We are being stalked by our shadows, which have witnessed our silence in the face of repeated assaults upon our faith and our families.

I used to think the church was sleeping and that someday something big would happen and we would all wake up and say, "Stop it now!" I still hope it will happen, but the hour is very late and the crisis is great.

My prayer is that God would convict our hearts and we would consider the desperate need for conviction and repentance. We serve a God who is merciful and slow to anger. In His compassion, He calls us to return to Him with a contrite heart (Joel 2:12-13).

This is the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14. America will not be changed until His children focus on Him and Him alone. The hour is upon us. Before God, let us confess our sin and turn from our sinful ways and embrace His ways and let Him heal our land through spiritual revival.

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